

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (CANCELED)
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of Claim [[1]] 6, wherein a contact surface for a first end of the fixing element is provided on the wall of the housing and an engagement element for a second end of the fixing element is provided on the vertical limb of the fixing bracket.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of Claim [[1]] 6, wherein the housing wall comprises a laterally projecting step, said step forming a contact surface for a first end of the fixing element, and wherein the vertical limb of the fixing bracket comprises an undercut for engagement with a second end of the fixing element.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of Claim 3, wherein said undercut comprises a catch for engagement with the fixing element.
5. (CANCELED)
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The device of Claim 5 for fixing a housing to a carrier plate, comprising a fixing bracket and a separate fixing element, wherein the fixing bracket is fixed onto an edge of the carrier plate projecting past the housing and a vertical limb that extends at a distance from a wall of the housing and is parallel thereto, and wherein the separate fixing element

can be inserted into an intermediate region between the housing wall and the vertical limb of the fixing bracket and fixedly secured therein, wherein the fixing element comprises a top part and a bottom part, said top and bottom part being interconnected by a hinge that permits a folding motion between the top and bottom parts, and the top and bottom parts each comprise an essentially rectangular outline and a complementary set of opposing side surfaces at the hinge, wherein said complementary set of opposing side surfaces permit a folding motion between the top and bottom parts.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The device of Claim 5 for fixing a housing to a carrier plate, comprising a fixing bracket and a separate fixing element, wherein the fixing bracket is fixed onto an edge of the carrier plate projecting past the housing and a vertical limb that extends at a distance from a wall of the housing and is parallel thereto, and wherein the separate fixing element can be inserted into an intermediate region between the housing wall and the vertical limb of the fixing bracket and fixedly secured therein, wherein the fixing element comprises a top part and a bottom part, said top and bottom part being interconnected by a hinge that permits a folding motion between the top and bottom parts, and said top part comprises a perpendicular rib for engagement with the vertical limb of the fixing bracket.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of Claim [[5]] 7, wherein said top part comprises a projection, said projection comprising an end surface with [[a]] the perpendicular rib for engagement with the vertical limb of the fixing bracket.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~The device of Claim 5~~ for fixing a housing to a carrier plate, comprising a fixing bracket and a separate fixing element, wherein the fixing bracket is fixed onto an edge of the carrier plate projecting past the housing and a vertical limb that extends at a distance from a wall of the housing and is parallel thereto, and wherein the separate fixing element can be inserted into an intermediate region between the housing wall and the vertical limb of the fixing bracket and fixedly secured therein, wherein the fixing element comprises a top part and a bottom part, said top and bottom part being interconnected by a hinge that permits a folding motion between the top and bottom parts, and said top part includes an opening.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~The device of Claim 5~~ for fixing a housing to a carrier plate, comprising a fixing bracket and a separate fixing element, wherein the fixing bracket is fixed onto an edge of the carrier plate projecting past the housing and a vertical limb that extends at a distance from a wall of the housing and is parallel thereto, and wherein the separate fixing element can be inserted into an intermediate region between the housing wall and the vertical limb of the fixing bracket and fixedly secured therein, wherein the fixing element comprises a top part and a bottom part, said top and bottom part being interconnected by a hinge that permits a folding motion between the top and bottom parts, and the bottom part increases in height from the hinge outward to an opposing end, said opposing end being steeply sloped and comprising a support surface, said support surface being capable of being brought into contact with the wall of the housing.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of Claim 9, wherein the bottom part is capable of being brought into contact with a support edge formed on the vertical limb of the fixing bracket.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~The device of Claim 5~~ for fixing a housing to a carrier plate, comprising a fixing bracket and a separate fixing element, wherein the fixing bracket is fixed onto an edge of the carrier plate projecting past the housing and a vertical limb that extends at a distance from a wall of the housing and is parallel thereto, and wherein the separate fixing element can be inserted into an intermediate region between the housing wall and the vertical limb of the fixing bracket and fixedly secured therein, wherein the fixing element comprises a top part and a bottom part, said top and bottom part being interconnected by a hinge that permits a folding motion between the top and bottom parts, and the top part comprises a thin-walled flat base and a plurality of thin-walled side walls, and further wherein the bottom part consists of a thin-walled base and a plurality of thin-walled side walls.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~The device of Claim 5~~ for fixing a housing to a carrier plate, comprising a fixing bracket and a separate fixing element, wherein the fixing bracket is fixed onto an edge of the carrier plate projecting past the housing and a vertical limb that extends at a distance from a wall of the housing and is parallel thereto, and wherein the separate fixing element can be inserted into an intermediate region between the housing wall and the vertical limb of the fixing bracket and fixedly secured therein, wherein the fixing element comprises a top part and a bottom part, said top and bottom part being interconnected by a hinge that permits a folding motion between the top and bottom parts, and the bottom part comprises a plurality of laterally extending projections, said plurality of laterally extending projections comprising end surfaces that are aligned with a support surface on an end of the bottom part.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim [[14]] 17, wherein said housing comprises a motor vehicle battery housing.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An [[The]] apparatus of Claim ~~16~~ for fixedly securing a housing to a carrier plate, comprising:
a fixing bracket, said fixing bracket being fixedly secured to said carrier plate and being capable of receiving said housing; and
a fixing element, said fixing element being capable of engaging with said fixing bracket and said housing such that said fixing element wedges said housing fixedly within said fixing bracket, wherein said fixing element comprises a top part and a bottom part, said top and bottom parts being operatively coupled by a hinge, and said top and bottom parts are capable of pivoting about said hinge.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said fixing bracket comprises an indent, said indent being capable of coupling with said fixing element.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein said fixing element further comprises a projecting rib, said projecting rib being capable of engaging with said indent.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein said housing comprises a motor vehicle battery housing.

21. (NEW) The device of Claim 7, wherein a contact surface for a first end of the fixing element is provided on the wall of the housing and an engagement element for a second end of the fixing element is provided on the vertical limb of the fixing bracket.

22. (NEW) The device of Claim 7, wherein the housing wall comprises a laterally projecting step, said step forming a contact surface for a first end of the fixing element, and wherein the vertical limb of the fixing bracket comprises an undercut for engagement with a second end of the fixing element.

23. (NEW) The device of Claim 10, wherein a contact surface for a first end of the fixing element is provided on the wall of the housing and an engagement element for a second end of the fixing element is provided on the vertical limb of the fixing bracket.

24. (NEW) The device of Claim 10, wherein the housing wall comprises a laterally projecting step, said step forming a contact surface for a first end of the fixing element, and wherein the vertical limb of the fixing bracket comprises an undercut for engagement with a second end of the fixing element.